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Patriots owner Robert Kraft campaigns against antisemitism

By DEEPA BHARATH
Associated Press

New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft faced the camera during a video call, pointing to a small, sky-blue lapel pin on his blazer. The pin is the symbol of a \$25 million "Stand Up to Jewish Hate" campaign launched Monday by the 81-year-old billionaire through his Foundation to Combat Antisemitism, aiming to raise awareness nationwide about soaring incidents of antisemitism online and in person. The campaign will feature emotive ads to be introduced by stars of top television shows such as NBC's "The Voice," and the "Kelly Clarkson Show," and Bravo's "Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen."

"This little blue square represents the Jewish population in the United States – 2.4%," said Kraft, who was raised in Brookline, Massachusetts, in an observant Orthodox Jewish family. "But we're the victims of 55% of the hate crimes in this country."

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Parent Beth Gann holds a photo of swastika vandalism while speaking on behalf of HB 144 during a Senate Children and Families Committee meeting at the Paul D. Coverdell Legislative Office Building in Atlanta on Thursday, March 23, 2023. HB 144 would include antisemitism as part of the state's hate crimes law.

Associated Press

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Patriots owner Robert Kraft campaigns against antisemitism

Continued from Front

The ads are intended to tug at the heartstrings of non-Jewish Americans, said Matthew Berger, the foundation's executive director. One of the ads, set to premiere Monday, shows a non-Jewish neighbor painting over a garage door vandalized with the Nazi swastika and the words "No Jews," concluding with the message: "Hate only wins if you let it."

Another ad focuses on online hate: A Jewish teen is shown crestfallen as he is trolled after posting a video of his bar mitzvah. Soon after, he sees a Harlem choir tag him with their version of his worship song. He sings along with the choir as these words pop up on screen: "Voices of support are louder than words of hate." Berger said the foundation worked with its creative team to find scenarios "that would be specifically impactful and showcase what antisemitism looks like." He said the ads will be featured during the NFL draft and the NBA and NHL playoffs, as well as on social media, promoted by prominent influencers. The campaign's launch follows last week's release of a report by the Anti-Defamation League asserting that antisemitic incidents in the U.S. rose 36% in 2022. The report tracked 3,697 incidents of harassment, vandalism and assault aimed



New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft walks the field during practice before an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023, in Orchard Park, N.Y.

Associated Press

at Jewish people and communities last year. It's the third time in five years that the annual total has been the highest ever recorded since the group began collecting data in 1979. The Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, based at California State University, San Bernardino, reported last week that Jews were the most targeted of all U.S. religious groups in 2022 in 21 major cities, accounting for 78% of religious hate crimes. Brian Levin, the center's director, said he is concerned about brazen, public expressions of antisemitism, and the proliferation of antisemitic tropes and conspiracy theories

online. A campaign against antisemitism which solicits the support of non-Jewish people can help create awareness, he said. "It is so important to show that antisemitism is un-American," Levin said. "If we can show non-Jews as allies, that could be powerful." In October, Kraft's foundation aired a 30-second ad during a Patriots-Jets game urging the public to speak out against antisemitism. That ad came after antisemitic comments made by the music mogul formerly known as Kanye West and basketball star Kyrie Irving's apparent support for an antisemitic film. "The rise of antisemitism, to

me, is the real breakdown of what this society stands on," Kraft said. "In my lifetime, I have never seen the way things are right now with this hatred against Jews." The mass shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh on Oct. 27, 2018, in which 11 people were killed in the nation's deadliest antisemitic attack, was a catalytic moment in his life, said Kraft. Two months after the shooting, he attended a Shabbat service at the synagogue, the day before his team was to play the Steelers. Kraft established the foundation a year later, after he received the \$1 million

Genesis Prize, awarded to Jews who have achieved significant professional success and are committed to Jewish values. The annual award is given by the Genesis Foundation in partnership with the Israeli Prime Minister's Office and the Jewish Agency for Israel. Over the past decade, Kraft has encountered much turbulence in his personal and professional life. In 2015, he and his team got caught up in the so-called "Deflategate" scandal. The NFL issued a 243-page report after an investigation found that Patriots employees violated the league's rules covering game balls and that the team's star quarterback, Tom Brady, was "at least generally aware" of plans to deflate the footballs to his liking. Kraft accepted the team penalty of a \$1 million fine and loss of two draft picks. In 2020, Florida prosecutors dropped a misdemeanor charge against Kraft after courts blocked their use of video that allegedly showed him paying for massage parlor sex. He issued a statement saying he "hurt and disappointed" his family, friends, co-workers, fans and others who hold him "to a higher standard." "I expect to be judged not by my words, but by my actions. And through those actions, I hope to regain your confidence and respect," Kraft said at the time. □

UN Security Council won't probe Nord Stream blasts



In this picture provided by Swedish Coast Guard, a leak from Nord Stream 2 is seen, on Sept. 28, 2022.

Associated Press

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN
Associated Press
UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council on Monday declined a Russian request to investigate the blasts on the pipelines that move natural gas from Russia to Europe under the Baltic Sea. Russia, China and Brazil voted in favor of the Russian request, but other Security Council members abstained or said another investigation was unnecessary. For a resolution to be adopted by the U.N. Se-

curity Council, it needs a minimum of nine "yes" votes in the 15-member council, and no veto by one of the permanent members — the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France. The U.S. deputy ambassador, Robert Wood, said there was no need for a U.N. probe when investigations by Sweden, Denmark and Germany "are proceeding in a comprehensive, transparent and impartial manner." The pipelines, known as Nord Stream 1 and Nord

Stream 2, are majority-owned by Russia's state-run energy giant Gazprom. Nord Stream 1 carried Russian gas to Germany until Moscow cut off supplies at the end of August 2022. Nord Stream 2 never entered service as Germany suspended its certification process shortly before Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. The explosions on both occurred on Sept. 26. The investigations by European nations have yet to yield conclusive results, at least none made public. □

U.S. to adopt new restrictions on using commercial spyware

By **NOMAAN MERCHANT**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government will restrict its use of commercial spyware tools that have been used to surveil human rights activists, journalists and dissidents around the world, under an executive order issued Monday by President Joe Biden.

The order responds to growing U.S. and global concerns about programs that can capture text messages and other cellphone data.

Some programs so-called “zero-click” exploits can infect a phone without the user clicking on a malicious link.

Governments around the world including the U.S. are known to collect large amounts of data for intelligence and law enforcement purposes, including communications from their own citizens.

The proliferation of commercial spyware has made powerful tools newly available to smaller countries, but also created what researchers and human-rights activists warn are opportunities for abuse and repression.

The White House released the executive order in advance of its second summit



House Select Committee on Intelligence ranking member Rep. Jim Himes, D-Conn speaks during the committee's annual open hearing on worldwide threats, at the Capitol in Washington, March 9, 2023.

Associated Press

for democracy this week. The order “demonstrates the United States’ leadership in, and commitment to, advancing technology for democracy, including by countering the misuse of commercial spyware and other surveillance technology,” the White House said in a statement.

Biden’s order, billed as a prohibition on using commercial spyware “that poses risks to national security,” allows for some exceptions.

The order will require the head of any U.S. agency using commercial programs to certify that the program doesn’t pose a significant counterintelligence or other security risk, a senior administration official said.

Among the factors that will be used to determine the level of security risk is if a foreign actor has used the program to monitor U.S. citizens without legal authorization or surveil human rights activists and other

dissidents.

“It is intended to be a high bar but also includes remedial steps that can be taken ... in which a company may argue that their tool has not been misused,” said the official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity under White House ground rules.

The White House will not publish a list of banned programs as part of the executive order, the official said. John Scott-Railton, a re-

searcher at the University of Toronto’s Citizen Lab who has long studied spyware, credited the Biden administration for trying to set new global standards for the industry.

“Most spyware companies see selling to the U.S. as their eventual exit path,” Scott-Railton said.

“The issue is the U.S. until now hasn’t really wielded its purchasing power to push the industry to do better.”

Congress last year required U.S. intelligence agencies to investigate foreign use of spyware and gave the Office of the Director of National Intelligence the power to ban any agency from using commercial programs.

Rep. Jim Himes of Connecticut, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said in a committee hearing last year that commercial spyware posed a “very serious threat to our democracy and to democracies around the world.” He said Monday the new order should be followed by other democracies taking steps against spyware.

“It’s a very powerful statement and a good tool, but alone it won’t do the trick,” he said. □

More relatives of Colorado shooting victims sue Sturm Ruger

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP) — More relatives of people shot to death at a Colorado supermarket in 2021 are suing gun-maker Sturm, Ruger & Co. over how it marketed the firearm used in the massacre, adding to litigation first filed earlier this month against the company.

The lawsuit by relatives of five of the 10 people killed in Boulder was served on the company Thursday and is expected to be filed this week in Superior Court in Stamford, Connecticut, according to Andrew Garza, a lawyer for the plaintiffs. The son of a sixth victim sued the company on March 14.

Both lawsuits accuse Sturm, Ruger & Co. of marketing its AR-556 pistol, which resembles a rifle, in a “reckless” and “immoral” way that promoted its killing



Pictures of the 10 victims of a mass shooting in a King Soopers grocery store are posted on a cement barrier outside the supermarket in Boulder, Colo., on April 23, 2021.

Associated Press

capability and glorified lone gunmen. The lawsuits, which seek undisclosed damages, are expected to be consolidated into one case, Garza said.

“We’re interested in pursuing justice for all the families and holding Ruger accountable,” Garza said Monday.

Representatives of Sturm, Ruger & Co., based in Fairfield, Connecticut, did not immediately respond to email and phone messages Monday.

The wrongful death lawsuits are similar to one filed against gun-maker Remington by relatives of victims of the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shoot-

ing that killed 20 children and six educators. That lawsuit led to a \$73 million settlement with Remington last year.

Gun makers are generally shielded from liability under a 2005 federal law, but an exception allows lawsuits over firearms marketing.

The gunman in the March 22, 2021, shooting at the King Soopers store in Boulder legally bought the Ruger AR-556, investigators said.

The six victims whose relatives are suing Sturm, Ruger & Co. were Suzanne Fountain, Neven Stanisic, Denny Stong, Lynn Murray, Jody Waters and Kevin Mahoney. □

3 children, 3 adults killed at Christian school in Nashville

By **JONATHAN MATTISE and TRAVIS LOLLER**

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A female shooter wielding two “assault-style” rifles and a pistol killed three students and three adults at a private Christian school in Nashville on Monday in the latest in a series of mass shootings in a country growing increasingly unnerved by bloodshed in schools.

Police said they believe the 28-year-old female shooter was a former student at The Covenant School, a Presbyterian school founded in 2001. She also died after being shot by police and investigators were immediately sent to her Nashville-area home.

The attack at The Covenant School which has about 200 students from preschool through sixth grade, as well as roughly 50 staff members comes as communities around the nation are reeling from a spate of school violence, including the massacre at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, last year; a first grader who shot his teacher in Virginia; and a shooting last week in Denver that wounded two administrators.

“I was literally moved to tears to see this and the kids as they were being



A police officer walks by an entrance to The Covenant School after a shooting in Nashville, Tenn. on Monday, March 27, 2023.

ushered out of the building,” Metropolitan Nashville Police Chief John Drake said at an afternoon news conference.

The identities of the deceased and the suspect have not been released. The shooter’s motive was also not immediately clear. President Joe Biden, speaking at an unrelated event at the White House on Monday, called the shooting a “family’s worst nightmare” and implored Congress again to pass a ban on certain semi-automatic weapons.

“It’s ripping at the soul of this nation, ripping at the very soul of this nation,” Biden said.

The suspect’s identity as a woman surprised experts on mass shootings. Female shooters make up only about 5% to 8% of all mass shooters, said Adam Lankford, a criminal justice professor at the University of Alabama who has closely studied the psychology and behavior of mass shooters. Researchers believe there are three main explanations for why men commit more shootings

than women, according to Jonathan Metzl, a professor of sociology and psychiatry at Vanderbilt University who has studied mass shootings for more than a decade. Metzl listed those explanations as: Men have more testosterone, are socialized to be engaged in violence and own more guns than women. “There is some story we don’t know here,” Metzl said of the suspected female shooter in Nashville. “From school shootings historically, very often we think that people have some historical connection

or emotional connection to the school. There’s an untold story here.”

Monday’s tragedy unfolded over roughly 14 minutes. Police received the initial call about an active shooter at 10:13 a.m.

Officers began clearing the first story of the school when they heard gunshots coming from the second level, police spokesperson Don Aaron said during a news briefing.

Two officers from a five-member team opened fire in response, fatally shooting the suspect at 10:27 a.m., Aaron said. He said there were no police officers present or assigned to the school at the time of the shooting because it is a church-run school.

The Covenant School’s victims were pronounced dead at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital and Vanderbilt University Medical Center. One officer had a hand wound from cut glass. Other students walked to safety Monday, holding hands as they left their school surrounded by police cars, to a nearby church to be reunited with their parents.

Rachel Dibble, who was at the church as families reunited in the nearby church, described the scene as everyone being in “complete shock.” □

Train derails in rural North Dakota and spills chemical

WYNDMERE, N.D. (AP) — A Canadian Pacific train derailed in rural North Dakota Sunday night and spilled hazardous materials. But local authorities and the railroad said there is no threat to public safety.

There were no injuries and no fire associated with the derailment, which occurred in a rural area outside Wyndmere, a town of several hundred people about 60 miles (97 kilometers) southwest of Fargo. Canadian Pacific spokesperson Andy Cummings

said 31 of the 70 cars on the train left the tracks around 11:15 p.m. Sunday, and some of the cars leaked liquid asphalt.

But there are no waterways near where the derailment happened.

The railroad’s hazardous materials experts are working with local first responders to clean up the spill. Several roads in the area were shut down.

It wasn’t immediately clear what caused the derailment or exactly how much liquid asphalt spilled.

Railroad safety has been in the spotlight nationally ever since last month’s fiery derailment of a Norfolk Southern train near East Palestine, Ohio. Roughly half of that town of about 5,000 people near the Pennsylvania border had to be evacuated after officials decided to release and burn toxic chemicals. Federal regulators and members of Congress have proposed reforms they want railroads to make to prevent future derailments. □



This photo provided by Joshua Henderson shows a Canadian Pacific train derailed in rural North Dakota on Sunday, March 26, 2023, which spilled hazardous materials, but local authorities and the railroad said there is no threat to public safety.

Associated Press

Scotland to get 1st Muslim leader as SNP elects Humza Yousaf

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Scotland's governing party elected Humza Yousaf as its new leader on Monday, making him the first person of color and the first Muslim to lead the country of 5.5 million people.

Yousaf narrowly defeated rival Kate Forbes after a bruising five-week contest that exposed deep fractures within the pro-independence Scottish National Party as it faces an impasse in its quest to take Scotland out of the United Kingdom.

The 37-year-old Glasgow-born son of South Asian immigrants is set to be confirmed as first minister during a session of the Scottish parliament in Edinburgh on Tuesday.

Yousaf, who currently is Scotland's health minister, beat two other Scottish lawmakers in a contest to replace First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. She unexpectedly stepped down last month after eight years as leader of the party and of Scotland's semi-autonomous government.

SNP members chose Yousaf over Scottish finance minister Forbes by a margin of 52% to 48%, after third-placed candidate Ash Regan was eliminated in a first vote. Turnout among the 72,000 members was 70%. Yousaf faces the challenge



Newly elected Scottish National Party leader Humza Yousaf speaks after being announced new SNP leader, at Murrayfield Stadium, in Edinburgh, Scotland, Monday, March 27, 2023.

Associated Press

of uniting the SNP and re-energizing the stalled independence campaign.

"Just as I will lead the SNP in the interests of all party members, not just those who voted for me, so I will lead Scotland in the interests of all our citizens whatever your political allegiance," he said in an acceptance speech at Edinburgh's Murrayfield rugby stadium.

"They couldn't have imagined, in their wildest dreams, that two generations later their grandson would one day be Scotland's first minister," he said. "We should all take pride in the fact that today we have sent

a clear message: that your color of skin, your faith, is not a barrier to leading the country we all call home." Yousaf is widely seen as a "continuity Sturgeon" candidate who shares the outgoing leader's liberal social views.

A formidable leader who led the SNP to a dominant position in Scottish politics, Sturgeon failed in her aim of taking Scotland out of the U.K. and divided the party with a contentious transgender rights law.

The three candidates to succeed her shared the goal of independence, but differed in their economic and social visions

for Scotland. Forbes, 32, is an evangelical Christian who has been criticized for saying that her faith would have prevented her from voting in favor of allowing same-sex couples to wed, had she been a lawmaker when Scotland legalized gay marriage in 2014.

Both Forbes and 49-year-old Regan opposed legislation championed by Sturgeon to make it easier for people in Scotland to legally change their gender. The gender recognition bill has been hailed as a landmark piece of legislation by transgender rights activists, but faced opposition from some SNP members who

said it ignored the need to protect single-sex spaces for women, such as domestic violence shelters and rape crisis centers.

Yousaf has promised to push forward with the bill, which has been passed by the Scottish parliament but blocked by the U.K. government.

The SNP holds 64 of the 129 seats in the Scottish parliament and governs in coalition with the much smaller Greens. The smaller party had warned it might quit the coalition if the SNP elected a leader that doesn't share its progressive views meaning a victory by Forbes or Regan could have splintered the government.

That split has been avoided, but the pro-independence campaign remains adrift. Scottish voters backed remaining in the U.K. in a 2014 referendum that was billed as a once-in-a-generation decision.

The SNP wants a new vote, but the central government in London has refused to authorize one, and the U.K. Supreme Court has ruled that Scotland can't hold one without London's consent.

Yousaf said he would ask the Conservative government in London for authorization to hold a new referendum. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's office said the answer remained no. □

Greenland to stay in daylight saving time forever

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Residents of Greenland have switched to daylight saving time and moved their clocks one hour forward this weekend for the very last time.

Unlike most of Europe, Greenlanders will leave their clocks untouched come autumn when daylight saving time ends. While Europe and the U.S. debates whether to stick to the twice-yearly practice, Greenland - a vast Danish semi-independent territory in the Arctic - has resolved to perennially remain only

three hours behind Copenhagen and most other European countries instead of four. Greenland's parliament, Inatsisartut, voted to stick to daylight saving time year-round on Nov. 24 last year. Officials say it will give Greenlanders another hour of daylight in the afternoons and more time to do business with Europe and farther afield.

"The shift of time zone marks an exciting new beginning, an equal connection to North America and Europe, and an opportunity to slow down in a fast-paced

world," Visit Greenland, the local government's tourism office said in a statement.

Geographically, sparsely populated Greenland belongs to the North American continent but geopolitically, it is in Europe.

Greenland is part the Danish Realm and its southernmost tip is more than 3,200 kilometers (nearly 2,000 miles) west of Copenhagen. Its 56,000 people mainly Inuit, indigenous people who chiefly live on the west coast in small towns and hamlets or remote coastal settlements. □



Small pieces of ice float in the water in Nuuk Fjord, Greenland, June 15, 2019.

Associated Press

U.N.-backed probe cites crimes against humanity in Libya

By **JAMEY KEATEN**
and **SAMY MAGDY**
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — U.N.-backed human rights experts said Monday there is evidence that crimes against humanity have been committed against Libyans and migrants in chaos-stricken Libya, including women being forced into sexual slavery. The investigators commissioned by the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council also faulted the European Union for sending support to Libyan forces that they say contributed to crimes against migrants and Libyans, and called on EU authorities to review their policies toward Libya.

The findings come in an extensive new report, based on interviews with hundreds of people, including migrants and witnesses, that wraps up a fact-finding mission created nearly three years ago to investigate rights violations and abuses in the North African country. The mission shared its findings with the International Criminal Court. Oil-rich but largely lawless Libya has in recent years emerged as the dominant transit point for migrants



Mohamed Auajjar, center, Chairperson of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya, Chaloka Beyani, left, and Tracy Robinson, members of the Fact-Finding Mission, speak to the media ahead of presenting the findings of the final report, at the 52nd session of the Human Rights Council during a press conference, at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Monday, March 27, 2023.

seeking a better quality of life in Europe. Activists have long decried horrible conditions faced by migrants who were trafficked and smuggled across the Mediterranean. Spokespersons for the government in the capital of Tripoli, which works in western Libya, and the forces of a powerful commander that controls eastern and southern Libya, were not immediately

available for comment. The investigators found “reasonable grounds to believe that crimes against humanity were committed against Libyans and migrants throughout Libya,” said Mohamed Auajjar, the head of the fact-finding mission. Speaking in Arabic through a translator at a news conference in Geneva, he said his team unearthed “numerous cases

of arbitrary detention, murder, torture, rape, enslavement, sexual enslavement and enforced disappearance.” The Libyan coast guard, which has received training and equipment from the EU, has worked “in close coordination” with trafficking networks in Libya, the report said. The “wide-scale exploitation of vulnerable, irregu-

lar migrants” churned up “significant revenue” that spurred continued rights violations, it said.

“The support given by the EU to the Libyan coast guard in terms of pull-backs, pushbacks, (and) interceptions led to violations of certain human rights,” said investigator Chaloka Beyani. “You can’t push back people to areas that are unsafe, and the Libyan waters are unsafe for the embarkation of migrants.” He said the European bloc and its member states weren’t found to be responsible for war crimes, but “the support given has aided and abetted the commission of the crimes.”

European Commission spokesman Peter Stano told reporters Monday that the EU did not fund the Libyan coast guard “nor any other entity in Libya,” adding that the EU assistance was meant to “improve their performance.” “We are providing assistance to help them improve their performance when it comes to search and rescue, be it with vessels, be it with equipment, or previously training with a focus exactly on human rights,” he said. □

Associated Press

U.S. lawsuit seeks to protect habitat of endangered corals

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — An environmental group filed a lawsuit Monday accusing the U.S. government

of failing to protect 12 endangered coral species across the Caribbean and the Pacific Ocean that

have been decimated by warming waters, pollution and overfishing.

The Arizona-based Center for Biological Diversity said it filed the lawsuit against the National Marine Fisheries Service more than two years after the agency proposed to protect more than 6,000 square miles worth of coral habitat but never did so.

The critical habitat designation would cover 5,900 square miles off Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Florida and the northwestern Gulf of Mexico. It also would cover 230 square miles around islands including Guam and American Samoa in the Pacific. Such a designation could

improve water quality in the coastal zone, limit excessive fishing and protect spawning grounds, according to the environmental group, which said “absent bold and immediate action” coral reefs worldwide could collapse over the coming century.

A spokeswoman for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries said the agency does not comment on litigation.

The Caribbean has five endangered species of coral, including the mountainous star coral, which is largely brown with fluorescent green streaks, and the pillar coral, which was moved from vulnerable to the en-

dangered category in December. The other seven endangered species in the Pacific include the acropora jacquelineae, which resembles a flat plate that can grow up to three feet (1 meter) long.

Corals worldwide have suffered die-offs from pollution, diseases, acidification, over-fishing and an event known as “coral bleaching,” which is caused by warming oceans as a result of climate change.

Overall, 23 coral species, which are the building blocks of reefs, are listed as endangered and six as critically endangered, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature. □



A coral grows under in the Caribbean Ocean along Caye Caulker near the second largest barrier reef that runs along the coast of Belize, Dec. 15, 2009.

Associated Press

First flight from London Gatwick Airport arrives in Aruba

(Oranjestad)—Yesterday afternoon, the first direct flight from British Airways arrived from London. This marks the beginning of weekly direct flights between Aruba and London, which will hopefully help the island's tourist market grow.

The minister of Tourism and Health, Dangui Oduber, has indicated in a press release that the airline will be conducting 2 flights every week that will depart from London Gatwick Airport (LGW) Thursday and Sunday.

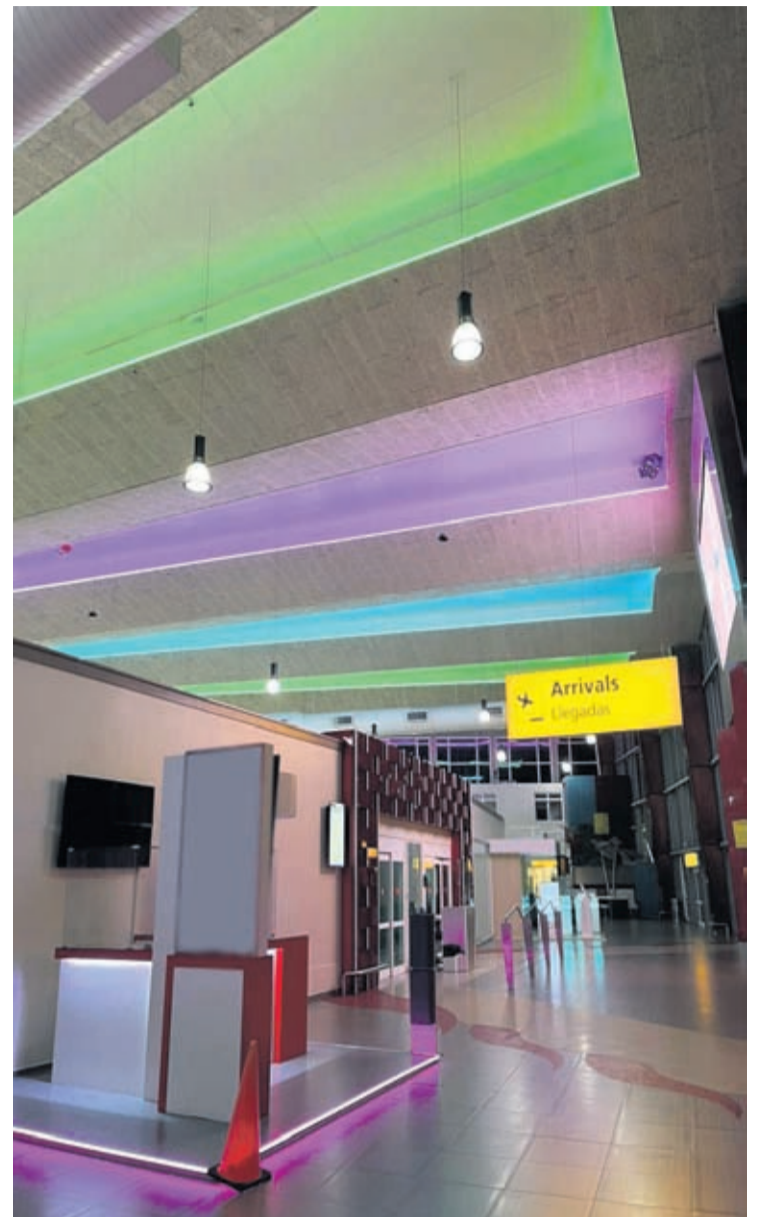
In the press release, he also stated that he is convinced that this new flight will give tourism on Aruba a further boost, not only because of

the extra visitors that will be arriving from England every week, but also because this can expand the Great Britain's market for Aruba as a destination. "The tourists that arrive are relatively wealthy, and so they are more likely to invest more in product Aruba."

During the official inaugural ceremony of the first flight from London, they performed the symbolic act of cutting the ribbon so as to welcome the airline and all its passengers visiting Aruba. This act of cutting the ribbon was performed by the minister of Culture and Finance, Xiomara Maduro, who was at the ceremony representing Prime Minister Evelyn Wever-Croes.

During her speech, Minister Maduro ratified that this is an important achievement that will open the doors to newer opportunities for Aruba's economic development. In addition, this will also boost the tourism industry for the island.

"Having a flight from London Gatwick Airport allows another door to open for Aruba in Europe, which will in turn allow us to connect with other parts of the continent. These destinations will allow Aruba to newer markets, and will provide the island with unique opportunities and benefits as the first island within the Dutch Kingdom to have direct flights to the U.K.," Maduro stated. □



Planets on parade: 5 will be lined up in night sky this week

By MADDIE BURAKOFF
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Keep an eye to the sky this week for a chance to see a planetary hangout. Five planets — Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Uranus and Mars — will line up near the moon.

WHERE AND WHEN CAN YOU SEE THEM?

The best day to catch the whole group is Tuesday. You'll want to look to the western horizon right after sunset, said NASA astronomer Bill Cooke.

The planets will stretch from the horizon line to around halfway up the night sky. But don't be late: Mercury and Jupiter will quickly dip below the horizon around half an hour after sunset.

The five-planet spread can be seen from anywhere on Earth, as long as you have clear skies and a view of the west.

"That's the beauty of these planetary alignments. It doesn't take much," Cooke said.

DO I NEED BINOCULARS?

Maybe. Jupiter, Venus and Mars will all be pretty easy to see since they



A girl looks at the moon through a telescope in Caracas, Venezuela, on Sunday, May 15, 2022.

Associated Press

shine brightly, Cooke said. Venus will be one of the brightest things in the sky, and Mars will be hanging out near the moon with a reddish glow. Mercury and Uranus could be trickier to spot, since they will be dimmer. You'll probably need to grab a pair of binoculars.

If you're a "planet collector," it's a rare chance to spot Uranus, which usually isn't visible, Cooke said. Look out for its green glow

just above Venus. **DOES THIS HAPPEN OFTEN?** Different numbers and groups of planets line up in the sky from time to time. There was a five-planet lineup last summer and there's another one in June, with a slightly different makeup.

This kind of alignment happens when the planets' orbits line them up on one side of the sun from Earth's perspective, Cooke said. □

Pinchos Grill & Bar

Open: Daily
From: 5:00pm to 10:00pm
Tel.: 583-2666
Website: www.pinchosaruba.com

Travellers' Choice 2020

THE WEST DECK
ISLAND GRILL • BEACH BAR

Open: Daily for Lunch and Dinner
From: 10:30 am to 10:00 pm
Tel.: 587-2667
Website: www.thewestdeck.com

Travellers' Choice 2020

Fresh fish right out of the Caribbean Sea to your plate



ORANJESTAD – Fish restaurants are everywhere, but do they serve fresh fish daily right out of the Caribbean Sea? The Grand Fish Restaurant does. This locally-owned restaurant is situated merely 5 minutes from the strip and is open as early as 11am for the lunch lovers.

The minute you step inside you can feel the homey and cozy warm ambiance by the décor and the friendly staff who will receive you with open arms.

The Grand Fish Restaurant has an extraordinary menu starting with appetizers, salads and their famous fish soup. The entree dishes consist of a variety of fresh fish like whole red snapper, fish steak, fish cake, grilled salmon, mixed seafood or seafood rice (paella local style) combined with sides of vegetables, french fries, rice, plantain, the island's traditional 'pan bati' (slapped bread) or funchi (cornmeal cake).

Each and every dish is made with passion, love and dedication. Yes... even the fried

ones!

There are also pasta, meat and poultry options plus a kid-friendly menu with crispy chicken or fish nuggets, cheese burgers, mac & cheese and kid tenderloin.

Pair your meal with your favorite drink or cocktail, a wine of your choice or a glass of The Grand Fish yummy homemade fresh lemonade.

If you haven't visited The Grand Fish yet, check out our local page for a coupon for a free glass of wine and make sure to drop by. The staff will be happy to welcome, guide and serve you for an amazing casual bite and good time.

The Grand Fish Restaurant is situated at Taratata Road 15, unit #1. Open from 11AM – 10PM from Wednesday till Monday CLOSED on Tuesdays!!! ☐



Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Casa del Mar Beach Resort

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently recognized the Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. Presenting the Ambassadors with the Emerald certification as a token of appreciation.

The Emerald certification is granted to ambassadors to recognize, their loyalty, friendship, and visits to the

island of Aruba. Emerald Honorees has been choosing Aruba as her preferred vacation destination for more than 35 years consecutively. The Honoring certification program has three levels, which are divided according to the number of consecutive years visiting the island.

- Honoring Levels:
- Distinguished Ambassadors: 10> years
 - Goodwill Ambassadors: 20> years
 - Emerald Ambassadors: 35> years

Honorees were: Emerald Ambassadors: 35> years:

George & Brigitte Verdon are residents of Colchester, United Kingdom (have been coming to Aruba for 35 years consecutively).

Ms. Olga Ruiz representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of Casa del Mar Beach Resort

bestowed the certification of the Emerald Ambassador. The honorees were presented with the Emerald Ambassador Certificate and memorable gifts.

On behalf of the Government of Aruba, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Verdon for making Aruba their preferred vacation destination for so many years. We are so thankful to have had such outstanding visitors all these years! For Mr. & Mrs. Verdon Aruba is unquestionably their home away from home!

The top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by the honoree were: George & Brigittie Verdon reasons:

1. Friendly and welcoming Aruban people
2. Safe environment
3. Consider Aruba our 2nd home
4. Many activities, a wide variety of options
5. Great weather ☐



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Aruba's Prime Minister chaired the UN Water Conference

ORANJESTAD - In the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Prime Minister of Aruba, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes, chaired the plenary and the closing of the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York.

It is the first time in history that an Aruban presided over a meeting at the United Nations, presiding ex officio. In this case, the honor was for a woman of Aruba, the Prime Minister Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes.

During the last week of March 2023, the Prime Minister of Aruba and Minister Ursell Arends attended the UN2023 Water Conference in New York. The Prime Minister mentioned that we are on the right track in Aruba with many achievements but still have a long road ahead. The Prime

Minister mentioned that she learned a lot during this conference.

The conference primarily raises awareness that we need to keep working to guarantee that everyone in Aruba has access to quality drinking water at an affordable price for everyone.

Aruba still has to work on the RWZI (Wastewater treatment facility) to solve this issue quickly. The protection and care of the ocean, marine life, and corals are issues that we must address to guarantee the stability of our economic pillar, our tourism.

"A lot is being said. But this is the time to take action. Aruba is on the right track, but there is a lot that still needs to be done," the Prime Minister emphasized. □



Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Dennis and Elaine from Boston**. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS
casinoalhambra.com

History of fishing in Aruba



ORANJESTAD — Fishing has been a family tradition for ages in Aruba. Our ancestors used to fish for a living. Even though nowadays you don't see them often we still have some passionate fishermen on the island that go out every day in search for fish to feed their families and serve our local market. One of these fishermen is Gregory Wernet.

The so-called Continental Bank between Aruba and the opposite coast reaches a depth of about 650 feet. The sea is very rich in fish here. Since the time of the indigenous native people fish and other sea creatures such as turtles, octopus squids, conch and many type of crustaceans have formed a means of subsistence for the native Aruban inhabitants. Especially along the west coast of the island where the fishing grounds are settle-

ments of fishermen. Until the arrival of the oil -industry Aruban fishermen could supply Aruba's wants. As a source of income, however, fishing did not amount too much. In the beginning of the 1900's approximately 160 people earn their living in this branch of this industry. Rancho, which stands for a shed, nowadays east Oranjestad, was the head quarter and remains the fishermen's settlement. Savaneta, Noord, Santa Cruz all had their fishermen's villages. At a rough estimate there were about a hundred small fishing boats during that time.

The Arubans were mainly engaged in coastal fishing, using rowing-boats or small sailing-boats, and lines or dragnets and canisters in shallow water. When fishing with deep-sea lines just over the bottom of the sea



the boat is kept in place by means of a piece of rock serving as an anchor. The two most important species of fish by far caught in this manner are the pargo or red snappers and a variety of groupers like the mero, jeanpao and the wowo di boyo.

Cruising off the coast the Aruban fisherman patiently waits for a fish willing to snap at the bait on the drag-line, in nets and traps. Veritable giants are sometimes caught. Barracudas weigh from 9 to 44 pounds and measure from 3 to almost 7 feet. The king-fish has a weight from 22 to 44 pounds; the moclat may tip the scales at 155, whilst garfish, having a length of nine feet, weigh over 132

pounds. Most fish caught is used for their own consumption, to feed their families and some are being sold in the market to local restaurants. Fisherman Gregory Wernet is a well-known fisherman from Santa Cruz. His father taught him fishing when he was a small child. Gregory has two sons, Jordan and Jordanny, which he taught fishing too, when they were only 3 years old and he takes them fishing with him. Fishing has been a family tradition for quite a long time and even his grandson Willvion of 7 years old is following his grandfather steps. This is the sixth generation of fishermen in their family.

They go deep sea fishing. There they catch red snapper, grouper and amberjack. They usually fish for 15 hours a day, but now due to the covid-19 measurements they go fishing from 5 in the morning until 8 o'clock at night or even sometimes from 8 at night till 5 in the morning. The day before they prepare all their fishing tools such as the Lines, lures, spears, and load their boat with fishing reels, batteries, fill the gasoline tank, lights and some food and beverages. For bait he uses sardines, squid and the small fish known in Aruba as piskechi. The have two boats they use for fishing. 'Virgen del Valle' which is parked at the pier by the Seaport and 'Padrot' which they have at home.



The fish they catch they take home to their families and they also sell it to their clients. Gregory is proud to be a fisherman. It is a honest and humble job but with it he is able to feed his family even during hard times. It is a very dangerous job and you have to spend many hours on the sea, waiting patiently and risking your life while fighting a big fish and big waves but the adrenaline it brings with it but also just sitting there listening to the sound of the waves and enjoying the marvelous view that nature has to offer is all worth it.

Source: Etnia Nativa

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Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a wind-swept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a "must see" landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the "T" junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the "fluke" or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos. This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

"According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk

out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain."

Story 2:

"Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them."

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's

Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The "anchor", which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated "To All Seamen" on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated "To All Seamen" in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. ☐



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 42 Destitute

1 Floor model

5 Boutiques

10 Midterms and finals

12 Card for fortunes

13 White House residents

15 Yale student

16 Equip

17 "Wonder Woman" star Gadot

18 "The Bathers" painter

20 Fork part

21 Liner parts

22 Finishes

23 Aquarium fish

25 Take in

28 Severe

31 Give off

32 Solution

34 Gorilla or gibbon

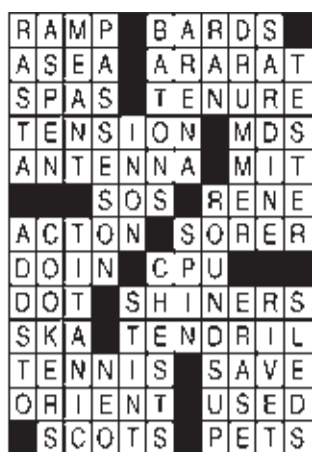
35 Pen fill

36 Before, in poems

37 Kind of burn or murder

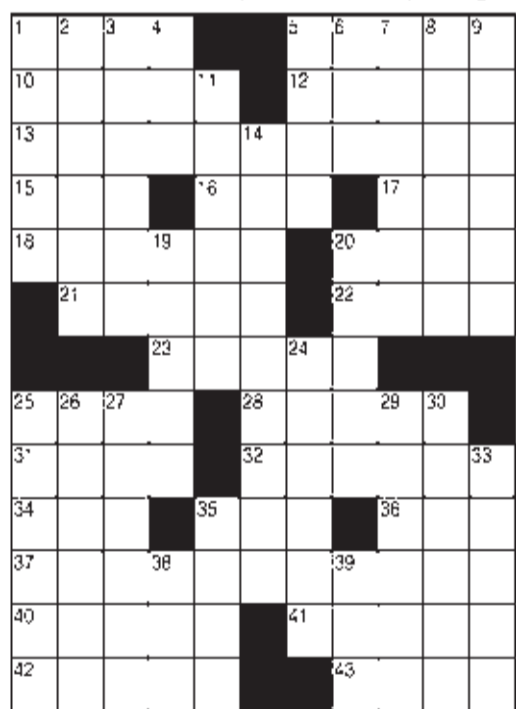
40 Mistake

41 Michelangelo statue



Yesterday's answer

- 1 Put off
- 2 Driven out
- 3 Leather-neck
- 4 Meditation sounds
- 5 Antlered animal
- 6 Deli choice
- 7 Genesis
- 8 Warsaw's nation
- 9 Modes
- 11 Bowling feat
- 14 Direct
- 19 Quartet doubled
- 20 Sign of sorrow
- 24 Put in order
- 25 Stun with noise
- 26 Ball caller
- 27 South Dakota capital
- 29 Turn suddenly
- 30 Below, in a contract
- 33 Oboe parts
- 35 Humble response
- 38 Lawn material
- 39 Opening



3-28

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-28

CRYPTOQUOTE

R EHZB KEOL WKTW GL HLPLV

Z EIL IRXKW EA EHL WKRIIX —

WKTW RW TZZ IWTWVW LQ GRWK

T SEYLL — GTZW QRHLB

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE'S NOT A MAN, WOMAN OR CHILD ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH WHO DOESN'T ENJOY A TASTY BEVERAGE. — DAVID LETTERMAN

Chipotle agrees to pay after closing store that sought union

By PATRICK WHITTLE

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Chipotle Mexican Grill has agreed to pay \$240,000 to former employees as part of a settlement stemming from a complaint that the company violated federal law by closing a restaurant where workers wanted to unionize.

Chipotle announced it was permanently closing its Augusta, Maine, location last year after workers filed a National Labor Relations Board petition for a union election. The NLRB later said the closure was illegal.

The Maine location was the first in the chain to file a union petition. The settlement, released by union officials on Monday, states that two dozen employees will receive payments from Chipotle and they will be placed on a preferential hiring list for other Maine locations.

The company must also post a notice in dozens of stores in New England that it won't close stores or discriminate against employees due to union support, the settlement states.

"It sends a message to corporations that shutting down a store and blackballing workers didn't work for Chipotle and it won't work for them either," said Brandi McNease, a former employee of the Augusta store and the lead organizer of the union drive, in a statement provided by the Maine AFL-CIO.

Chipotle said in a statement that it settled the lawsuit because fighting it would have been burdensome and expensive. The company respects "our employees' rights to organize under the National Labor Relations Act" and is "committed to ensuring a fair and just work environment that provides opportunities to all," said Laurie Schalow, chief corporate affairs officer for the company, in a statement.

"We settled this case not because we did anything wrong, but because the time, energy and cost to litigate would have far outweighed the settlement agreement," Schalow said. □

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Whitney Houston's family wants to highlight her gospel roots

By **JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.**
AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Whitney Houston's brother remembers when his young sister listened to their mother during gospel rehearsals before she mimicked every tune that was sung.

As Houston rose to pop superstardom, her exceptionally talented vocals were rooted in gospel music. And now, her family — led by her sister-in-law Pat and brother Gary Houston — wants the foundation of her musical legacy to continue to live on through her new posthumous gospel album and documentary under the same name, "I Go to the Rock: The Gospel Music of Whitney Houston."

"Gospel was in her heart," said Gary Houston, who recalled his sister around the age of 5 wearing their mother Cissy Houston's wig and high heels while using a broom as a microphone. "We woke up to and went to sleep to gospel. She would sing exactly what she heard my mother and her siblings. No secular music. It was all gospel."

Pat Houston, the executor of Whitney Houston's estate, said she's excited for listeners to hear the six-time Grammy-winner's message of hope and faith and the influential mark gospel music had on her life and career through both projects, which both were released Friday last week. The documentary, hosted by CeCe Winans, aired on UPtv and AspireTV and will be available on DVD. The singer's 14-track album features several tunes from notable soundtracks including "Jesus Loves Me" from "The Bodyguard," "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" from "Sparkle" along with "I Go to the Rock" and "Joy to the World" from "The Preacher's Wife" soundtrack — the best-selling gospel album of all time. The project also includes six



Singer Whitney Houston performs at the pre-Grammy gala & salute to industry icons with Clive Davis honoring David Geffen in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Feb. 13, 2011.

Associated Press

unreleased tracks — three of which ("He Can Use Me," "I Found a Wonderful Way" and "Testimony") were recorded when she was 17 years old.

"You heard the innocence of her voice," said Pat Houston. "You could see where she started and how she ended up with all her hits throughout her career. Any song is a great song of Whitney Houston's. You heard her gospel roots all wrapped up in her music." Whitney Houston first started singing at the New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, New Jersey, as a child. Between the mid-1980s to the late 1990s, she was one of the world's best-selling artists with her effortlessly powerful vocals rooted in the Black church but made palatable to the masses with her pop persona. It understandably took time for the family to grieve after Whitney Houston's death in 2012. Her brother, Gary, said he still feels his sister's spirit whenever it rains, or when a bird visits him while he's at home adding that "when the doorbell rings, I think it's her." □

Review: Vietnam vets try to help nation they once attacked

By **JEFF ROWE**
Associated Press

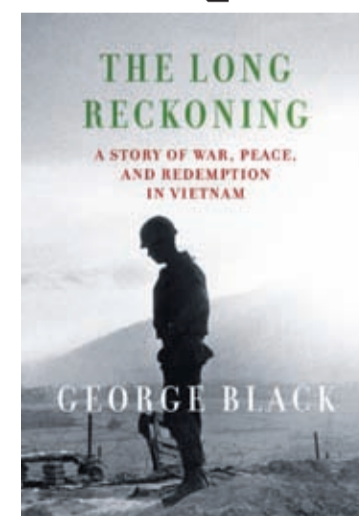
"The Long Reckoning: A Story of War, Peace and Redemption in Vietnam," by George Black (Knopf) In the U.S., we've mostly moved on from our military engagements in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. It's the American way — not dwelling on our mistakes or engaging in a national discussion about what went wrong. And atonement? We don't do that. But two American Vietnam vets thought differently and became our national conscience, our moral center and our agents of redemption in dealing with the fearsome toll that herbicide spraying and unexploded bombs inflicted on tens of thousands of Vietnamese.

Manus Campbell, a Marine from New Jersey, and Chuck Searcy, an Army intelligence analyst from Georgia, have spent the past few decades in Vietnam leading efforts to heal the hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese still suffering from war wounds or diseases linked to herbicide exposure. Thanks to Campbell, Searcy and a small group of scientists and others, the U.S. and others are providing the resources to help find unexploded bombs and treat Vietnamese struggling with diseases likely linked to herbicide exposure. George Black's reporting for "The Long Reckoning" is deep and wide — he made nine trips to Vietnam and the result is a meticulously reported, extraordinary

account of efforts, mostly Searcy's and Campbell's, to bring medical care in an area most severely affected by herbicides the U.S. military used in Vietnam in an effort to expose the maze of roads and trails the North Vietnamese used to move weapons and supplies to the south. Goodreads counts 323 books written on the Vietnam War. In these books, the stages and characters are different, but the end remains mostly the same. America clung to the belief that its overwhelming military power could bend a people to its will. It could not and in the silence when the shooting and bombing finally ended, Vietnamese confronted a nation in ruins. Millions had been killed or wound-

ed, cities and towns were wrecked and hundreds of square miles had been defoliated by herbicide spray that polluted water supplies and likely caused severe and lingering health problems. This book, however, offers an inspiring epilog to the Vietnam tragedy. "I thought we had a moral obligation to help," said Searcy. "I wanted to participate in the rebuilding." So did Campbell; both men have spent most of the past few decades in Vietnam, focusing on getting assistance for the millions of Vietnamese still suffering from the war's chemical and explosive legacy. Searcy says he has been overwhelmed by the graciousness of the Vietnamese, and particularly former

combatants, which has given him a revelation on America today. "If the veterans can come together and make peace, why can't we all?" □



This cover image released by Knopf shows "The Long Reckoning: A Story of War, Peace, and Redemption in Vietnam" by George Black.
 Associated Press

Lamar Jackson says he has requested trade from Ravens

By **NOAH TRISTER**
AP Sports Writer

Lamar Jackson said Monday he has requested a trade from the Baltimore Ravens, saying the team "has not been interested in meeting my value."

In a series of tweets, the star quarterback said he requested a trade as of March 2. On March 7, the Ravens put the nonexclusive franchise tag on Jackson and said they were still hopeful they could reach a long-term deal with him.

"As of March 2nd I requested a trade from the Ravens organization for which the Ravens has not been interested in meeting my value," Jackson said on Twitter. "Any and everyone that's has met me or been around me know I love the game of football and my dream is to help a team win the super bowl."

Jackson may not need a trade to join a new team. The nonexclusive franchise tag allows him to negotiate with other clubs. However, it also gives Baltimore a chance to match any agreement he makes. The decision to make the trade



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson (8) leaves the field after the end of the first half of an NFL football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars, Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022, in Jacksonville, Fla.
Associated Press

request public may be an attempt to deter the Ravens from matching another team's offer or an attempt to spur more interest among other teams by declaring that he wants out of Baltimore.

If Jackson makes a deal with another team and the Ravens don't match, that

team would owe Baltimore two first-round draft picks. Ravens coach John Harbaugh spoke extensively about Jackson on Monday at the league's owners meetings in Phoenix.

"I haven't seen the tweet. That's an ongoing process," Harbaugh said. "I'm following it very closely, just like

everybody else is here, and looking forward to a resolution. I'm excited, thinking about Lamar all the time, thinking about him as our quarterback. We're building our offense around that idea."

Jackson was the 2019 NFL MVP. His passing and running ability make him one

of the game's biggest stars. At age 25, he already is one of six quarterbacks in NFL history with 10,000 yards passing and 4,000 rushing.

Jackson has been hurt at the end of the past two seasons, and the Ravens haven't reached the AFC championship game with him. If he remains with Baltimore, he'll have a new coordinator. The Ravens hired Georgia's Todd Monken for that position after the end of last season.

Harbaugh said he anticipates Jackson being Baltimore's quarterback at the start of next season.

"You've got to plan for all the contingencies for sure," Harbaugh said. "But I'm pretty fired up about Lamar Jackson. I mean, Lamar Jackson is a great player. Lamar came back in great shape last year. He's fired up to play. That's the Lamar that I'm looking forward to seeing.

Can't wait to get back on the grass and go to work, and I'm confident that's going to happen."

Harbaugh tried to stay upbeat about the prospects of Jackson's return. □

Alcaraz, Sabalenka advance to 4th round of Miami Open

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)

— Top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz of Spain beat Dusan Lajovic of Serbia 6-0, 7-6 (5) and will face American Tommy Paul on Tuesday. World No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus cruised past Marie Bouzkova of the Czech Republic 6-1, 6-2 on Sunday.

"I lost the first and only match that I played against Tommy" Alcaraz said. "I know that he's a really talented and really tough player, so I have to play at my best. Let's see what's going to happen on Tuesday.

Paul and fellow American No. 10 Taylor Fritz advanced in straight sets.

Bianca Andreescu of Canada the 2019 U.S. Open champion beat 2020 Australian Open winner Sofia

Kenin of the United States 6-4, 6-4.

Andreescu advanced to the tournament's fourth round for the third time. She had seven aces to Kenin's one, and double-faulted only once as she won the third straight matchup between the Grand Slam champions. Andreescu converted all three of her break opportunities.

In other matches, Barbora Krejčíková of the Czech Republic outlasted American Madison Keys 7-6 (4), 6-3.

Also, Ekaterina Alexandrova of Russia defeated world No. 9 Belinda Bencic of Switzerland, the gold medalist at the Tokyo Olympics, 7-6 (8), 6-3; Marketa Vondroušová ousted Karolína Plíšková 6-1, 6-2 in an all-Czech matchup; Sorana Cîrstea of Romania beat

Karolína Muchová of the Czech Republic 7-5, 6-1; and Varvara Gracheva of Russia defeated Magdalena Frech of Poland 6-1, 6-2.

On the men's side, Botic van de Zandschulp of the Netherlands outlasted world No. 4 Casper Ruud of Norway 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Van de Zandschulp had 12 aces to Ruud's six, but they each had three double-faults. Van de Zandschulp will face Emil Ruusuvuori of Finland in the next round.

Paul beat Alejandro Davidovich Fokina of Spain 6-3, 7-5, helped by eight aces. Fokina had six double-faults.

Fritz defeated Denis Shapovalov of Canada 6-4, 6-4. Shapovalov had seven double-faults. Fritz will face world No. 8 Holger Rune of Denmark, who

defeated Diego Schwartzman of Argentina 6-4, 6-2.

"It's going to be a tough match I think for a round of 16," Fritz said. "Myself playing Holger is a very tough draw. I'm excited to play him. We've never played

before. I'm not entirely I guess sure what to make of his game. Obviously, he's very good."

Also, Andrey Rublev of Russia dispatched Miomir Kecmanović of Serbia 6-1, 6-2. □



Carlos Alcaraz of Spain reacts after winning point against Dusan Lajovic of Serbia during the Miami Open tennis tournament, Sunday, March 26, 2023, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

MLB 2023: New rules, big money Mets, Ohtani's walk year



Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani, right, hits a single as Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Austin Barnes watches during the fourth inning of a preseason baseball game Sunday, March 26, 2023, in Los Angeles.

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

Baseball has transformed in the 145 days since Dusty Baker and the Houston Astros' sealed up the franchise's second title in six seasons.

As New York Mets owner Steve Cohen dominated an offseason that saw billions spent, the sport braced for a new world that includes pitch clocks, bigger bases, limits on defensive shifts and pickoff throws, and an overarching attempt to reverse decades of lengthening games and the Analytics Era domination of the Three True Outcomes strikeouts, walks and home runs. "Late-inning relievers more than anyone will have to figure some things out and make some adjustments," Minnesota Twins manager Rocco Baldelli said. "Left-handed hitters, it's going to help them, period."

Last year's average game time was 3 hours, 4 minutes after the introduction of the PitchCom electronic device to signal pitches, down from a record 3:10 in 2021. MLB's average was 2:46 in 2005 and 2:33 in 1981. A pitch clock of 15 seconds

with no runners and 20 seconds with runners is designed to cut game times considerably.

Higher pitch velocity and increased shifts led to the major league batting average dropping to .243, its lowest since 1968. The only seasons with lower averages were the record bottom of .237 in 1968 along with 1967 and the deal-ball era seasons of 1884, 1888 and 1908. Over the objections of players, the sport's 11-man competition committee adopted a rule that two infielders are required to be on either side of second and all infielders to be within the outer boundary of the infield when the pitcher is on the rubber. Bases were increased from 15-inch squares to 18x18, which shorten the distance by 4 1/2 inches and may lead to increased stolen bases.

In spring training through Sunday, games time averaged 2:35 in a drop from 3:01. Runs fell from 10.6 per game to 10.2 and batting average from .259 to .256, but batting average on balls in play rose to .325 from .314 for lefty hitters

while remaining .311 for righties. No player will be watched more closely this season than Shohei Ohtani, a two-way megastar in the final year under contract with the Los Angeles Angels. He and three-time MVP teammate Mike Trout have never played in a postseason game together. Ohtani has made it clear he wants to win. A taste of October might be needed to convince the Japanese sensation to remain with the franchise.

Other storylines to watch include Aaron Judge's ascent to Yankee captaincy the first since Derek Jeter after his 62-homer season; Fernando Tatis Jr., set to return from a drug suspension in April 20, teaming with Manny Machado to try leading the Padres to their first World Series title; and can Carlos Correa remain healthy with Minnesota after San Francisco and the Mets backed out of deals with the All-Star shortstop? Five areas to focus on as the 2023 season starts Thursday:

LEFT-HANDED HITTERS

Batting average for left-handed hitters was .236

last year, down from .254 in 2016, when lefties were one point below the big league average.

An early focus will be on which left-handed hitters benefit most from the new shift restrictions. Among those who could be helped are Corey Seager, Kyle Schwarber, Anthony Rizzo, Cody Bellinger, Rowdy Tellez and Yordan Alvarez. Teams still are allowed to position outfielders as they wish, so some managers may experiment with moving the left fielder into short right with certain lefties at the plate.

BASEBALL "BILLIONS"

Cohen inspired the character of Bobby Axelrod, who returns to Showtime's "Billions" in season seven. Season three of the Mets under Cohen should be as interesting as the television drama. New York raised its payroll to a projected \$370 million and is set to shatter the record, set by the 2015 Los Angeles Dodgers at \$291 million, while also paying a luxury tax on track to be \$116 million.

The Mets added Justin Verlander, José Quintana, Kodai Senga, David Rob-

ertson and Omar Narváez while losing Jacob deGrom to Texas and re-signing Edwin Díaz, Brandon Nimmo, Jeff McNeil and Adam Ottavino to big deals. Díaz already is out for the season following a knee injury during the World Baseball Classic. "\$300 million, which is still a lot of money, didn't get us like it used to," Cohen said.

OLD FACES IN NEW PLACES

Verlander left the champion Astros for the Mets after winning his third Cy Young Award.

Others on new teams include deGrom (Texas), Trea Turner (Phillies), Xander Bogaerts (Padres), Carlos Rodón (Yankees), Dansby Swanson (Cubs) and Willson Contreras (St. Louis).

"The goal is to make 30-plus starts and I truly believe that I will be able to do that," said deGrom, limited by injuries to 26 starts during the past two years.

NEW BOSSES

Bruce Bochy (Texas), Matt Quattraro (Kansas City), Pedro Grifol (Chicago White Sox) and Skip Schumaker (Miami) are the four new managers among the 30 teams, while interim tags were removed for Rob Thomson (Philadelphia), Phil Nevin (Los Angeles Angels) and John Schneider (Toronto).

"You do realize how much you miss it and how much fun so many different parts of the game bring to you," said the 67-year-old Bochy, who led the San Francisco Giants to three World Series titles and left after 2019, his 25th season as a big league manager.

HOT KIDS

Shortstop Anthony Volpe, just 21, made the Yankees opening day roster after playing 22 games at Triple-A. He joins a rookie class that includes Arizona outfielder Corbin Carroll, St. Louis outfielder Jordan Walker, Baltimore infielder Gunnar Henderson, White Sox outfielder Oscar Colás, Cleveland catcher Bo Naylor and Colorado infielder Ezequiel Tovar plus a pair of Japanese imports: Boston outfielder Masataka Yoshida and the Mets' Senga. □